

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2005

Contact:

Michaele DeBoer or Pati Brown  
(562) 207-7210 or (916) 798-6121

## Beach Transformed into Giant Campground for Hundreds of Youth

HUNTINGTON STATE BEACH – More than 700 inner-city youth between the ages of 8 and 17 from throughout California – many of whom have never been to a beach before – will be the guests of California State Parks at a special two-day “Beach Play Day” at Huntington State Beach, July 27 – 28, 2005, for a massive overnight beach camping event, announced State Parks Director Ruth Coleman.

The eighth annual “Beach Play Day” is sponsored by California State Parks, the State Parks Police Activities League (SSPAL), the California Police Activities League representing law enforcement agencies around California and personnel support from the California National Guard Drug Demand Reduction team. This collaborative team transforms the beach into a giant campground and activity center providing healthy living options featuring physical activity through beach related recreation, at one of Southern California’s most popular beaches, building self esteem and physical fitness while having fun.

PAL youth experience outdoor recreation including body boarding, climbing a rock wall, a giant Slip N Slide, dodge ball, beach relay and team building games. Teenagers will be offered the unique chance to ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on a sandy beach course. Surf rescue techniques and water safety will be demonstrated by State Parks lifeguards including a helicopter rescue. Hoag Hospital will team with lifeguards for water safety instruction. Following an evening dance, the PAL youth will campout on the beach in military field tents. State Parks personnel, police officers from statewide agencies and volunteers oversee the event.

“Doctors recommend 60 minutes of physical activity a day for health and wellness. We can help make that prescription fun,” said Director Coleman. “The Beach Play Day partnership provides an excellent opportunity for youth to develop lifelong interest in outdoor recreation, build self esteem and make healthy lifestyles choices. State Parks is happy to do its part in helping these young people.”

-MORE-

Police Activities Leagues are non-profit organizations that are associated with local police departments or sheriff offices. The PALs promote positive relationships between youth and peace officers, and uses recreation and educational activities to help youth become productive citizens and prevent juvenile crime.

Seen as a highlight of the year, "Beach Play Day" youth are selected to attend by their respective PALs for a variety of reasons including school attendance and positive behavior. For many this is their first beach experience. Currently there are more than 120 PAL organizations in California that are affiliated with the statewide organization, California PAL. This event is made possible, in part, by a grant from National PAL.

The State Parks Police Activities League (SPPAL), the first statewide PAL in the USA, is part of the non-profit, California State Parks Foundation. Its mission is to promote responsible citizenship in youth through outdoor recreation and educational experiences. SSPAL programs are made possible by the financial support of the Foundation's members and donors.

# # #

*Note to Assignment Editors: The event is at Huntington State Beach, between lifeguard stations 13 and 14. Schedule of events is included.*